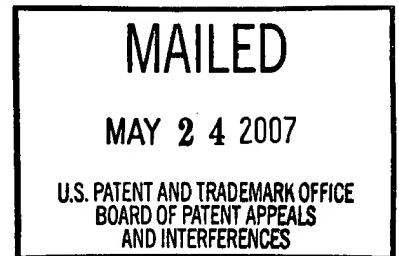


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte: TAKAHISA KURAHASHI, HIROYUI HOSOBABA, HIROSHI NAKATSU,
TETSUROU MURAKAMI and SHOUICHI OHYAMA

Application No. 09/778,045



ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on March 20, 2007. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

On December 11, 2006, a Supplemental Examiner's Answer was mailed. A review of the Supplemental Examiner's Answer reveals that clarification of the rejection to Claims 21, 22, 25, 26 under 35 USC 103(a) is required. Note the Supplemental Examiner's Answer mailed December 11, 2006, (page 3, ln. 8) where Claims...21, 22, 25 and 26 do not appear in the rejection under 35 USC 103(a); then again see pages 9-10 of the same answer, where the

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examiner presents arguments for the rejection of Claims 21, 22, 25, 26. Clarification of the rejection of Claims 21, 22, 25, 26 is needed.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the examiner to:

- 1) clarification of the above-identified rejection; and
- 2) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES



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